

After the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) diagnosis that Benjamin received, he showed compassion and hoped that no other children would have to endure what he did. The greatest protection he had during his battle with ALS was the never-ending support and care given to him by his parents and family. Throughout every stage of Benjamin's illness Magnolia and Cesar were by his side providing the medical and emotional support he needed at any hour of the morning or night, while also striving to ensure that Benjamin found joy in moments and activities throughout the day. Together they quickly became movie and anime aficionados bonding over movie classics and anime shows between treatments.

Prior to his ALS diagnosis, Benjamin was an undergraduate student at North Park University interested in pursuing marine biology. He had received a private tour with the University of Washington's faculty in 2021 and was personally encouraged by faculty to transfer into the University of Washington's Friday Harbor Laboratories program. In a world full of complexity, Benjamin was the opposite—he was caring, grateful, honest, and above all humble. He retained simple yet abundant pleasures in life: spending time with his loving family, his amazing group of friends, watching Spiderman movies and anime, listening to 80's music classics, adhering to his fierce loyalty to Real Madrid by watching games and cheering any hour of the day, also extending that team loyalty to the Seattle Seahawks, and immersing himself into caring and learning more about ocean life. Benjamin had a sharp sense of humor and quick wit, even making jokes and playing pranks throughout his battle against ALS, staying true to himself until the very end.

Benjamin is survived by his parents, Magnolia Rivera-Pulex and Cesar Pulex, his sister Camila Pulex, and a large and loving extended family.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF MASSACRES AGAINST ARMENIANS IN SUMGAIT

##### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 2, 2022*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the thirty-fourth anniversary of the Sumgait pogroms, which is known as one of the most violent anti-Armenian massacres orchestrated by Azerbaijan.

In February of 1988, the Armenian people of Nagorno Karabakh, more commonly known by its people and descendants as Artsakh, rose in peaceful protest to demand their right to self-determination. On February 27, 1988, civilians were subjected to violent riots and massacres, which lasted for three days. Many innocent civilians were injured, killed, and tortured; some managed to escape and survive while coping with the catastrophe they survived.

Unfazed by their oppression, the Armenian community remained strong and dedicated to preserving their self-determination toward a free-democratic country, that would finally end their rule under the Soviet Union. The courage demonstrated by the people of Artsakh must never be forgotten.

Human rights violations cannot be ignored, and we must learn from our experiences to ensure basic human rights across the globe.

In 2020, we saw the Azerbaijani government capture 25 Armenian soldiers and held them as prisoners of war. The fate of one prisoner remains unknown as of this date. The Azerbaijani government must be held accountable for its violent aggression against the Armenian people.

Today, the people of Artsakh continue to demonstrate strength and unity as they strive towards creating a better tomorrow for themselves and their sovereignty. As lawmakers, it's imperative that Congress continues to work with our counterparts to support a free, prosperous, and secure Armenia and hold Azerbaijan accountable.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the thousands of Armenian Americans living in my congressional district, I ask my colleagues to stand with the people of Artsakh in remembering the lives lost during this tragic event. May their memory serve as a reminder for each one of us to continue advocating for human rights and democracy around the globe.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JIM LANCASTER

##### HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 2, 2022*

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of my friend, cousin, and lifelong Tennessean, Jimmie Knight Lancaster. He passed away on February 3rd after a remarkable 92 years on God's earth.

He was born on June 11, 1929 in Smith County, Tennessee and was the oldest of twin sons born to Edward and Dimple Knight Lancaster. He was raised in a log cabin on the family farm and attended Lancaster Elementary School. After graduating from Gordonsville High School in 1947, he attended Tennessee Technological University on a football scholarship where he received All-Conference honors as a single wing tailback. In college, he served as President of the "T" Club and was elected to Who's Who Among College Students while graduating with the highest honors and his Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy Agriculture in 1951.

Mr. Lancaster dedicated much of his life to agriculture. He worked for the Wilson County Farm Bureau as its Agency Manager for over 43 years. In fact, he's now a member of the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame in recognition of his exemplary work for local farmers throughout his career.

Jim had an unquenchable thirst for learning throughout his life. He became a Certified Life Underwriter in 1972, earned an Advanced Estate Planning Degree in 1973, and became a Chartered Financial Consultant in 1982.

As a charter member and former Sunday School teacher at the Westland United Methodist Church in Lebanon, Jim loved the Lord and cherished his family with all his heart. He and Vondell, the love of his life, were married for 67 years before her passing. Together they had five children, twelve grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Jim's and Vondell's loving marriage and devotion to family led to a lot of little Lancasters running around Middle Tennessee.

Jim was a joyful role model and so many people in his community knew Jim in that way.

He served as a leader in many local organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts, Lebanon Jaycees, the Peoples Bank, the Lebanon Rotary Club, and Cumberland University, and was local camp President of Gideon's International. He prided himself on being a consummate public servant and attempted to inspire others to do the same.

He received countless awards for his service over the years like becoming a member of the Robert E. Musto Insurance Hall of Fame, receiving an honorary Doctorate in Literary Letters from Cumberland University, the Jaycee's Distinguished Service Award, the Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellowship Award and Bernice Bass Good Citizenship Award, Tennessee Technological University's Outstanding Service Award, and the Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Membership Award. But he was a humble man who wasn't in it for recognition. He just loved serving his community and the people in it.

Jim Lancaster spent his entire life serving his community, the public, and the Lord. It is only suitable for Congress to recognize and honor his life and legacy. I was blessed to call Jim family. It is a bittersweet moment for me now to say he's gone to be with our Lord.

I thank Jim Lancaster for a life well lived that touched so many in such a positive way.

#### HONORING CHRYSTAL WILLIAMS-DAVIS

##### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 2, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable hero, Mrs. Chrystal Williams-Davis.

Chrystal was born August 27, 1971, to the late Emma Turner Williams in Marks, Mississippi. She was the last born of 10 children. She attended schools in Quitman County and graduated from Quitman County High School in 1989.

Immediately after graduating high school, she enlisted in the United States Army and was deployed in 1990 to Operation Desert Shield where she was in the Persian Gulf for one year serving during Operation Desert Shield/Storm. She received the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Medal for the Liberation of Kuwait, The Army Commendation Medal, and The National Defense Medal. Chrystal served a total of ten years in the United States Army Reserve.

Chrystal returned home from Desert Storm and attained her certificate in Practical Nursing from Northwest Community college in 1995. Upon completion of Practical Nursing school, her mother Emma passed away suddenly. Chrystal was sad but remembered how proud her mother was of her accomplishment, and that gave her great comfort and pushed her even harder. She worked as a Licensed Practical Nurse for five years and decided it was time to advance her career in nursing. She then attended Mississippi Delta Community College where she obtained her Associate Degree in Nursing in 2005. She worked as an Intensive Care RN for several years and decided once again that she wanted to have the ability to do more for her patients after seeing

how chronic diseases affected her community. She obtained her Bachelors' Degree in Nursing with honors from Chamberlain College of Nursing in 2010 and her Master of Science degree in Nursing with honors from Walden University as a Family Nurse Practitioner in 2014. She has been employed with a rural health clinic, Northeast Mississippi Health Care, providing primary care to residents in Mississippi who might otherwise not be able to afford care. Chrystal has worked in various settings in the nursing field. She has worked with Special Needs adults, Women's Health, Medical Surgical Nursing, Emergency Room, Infection Control Nursing, Home Health, and Hospice. In her spare time, she provides nurse consulting. Outside of work, she is very active in her community, where she participates in community activism and provides health education in various settings. Her passion is for the education of young women on self-esteem.

Chrystal is married to Davie Davis, and they have three children: Chelsea, Jamaal and Dawoud. Chrystal gives her mother Emma all the credit for her ability to be a loving mother, sister, and aunt. Her mother Emma raised her to: "Do her best at whatever she decides to do, but always remain humble and give God praise in everything." Her family and friends are very important in her life.

Chrystal has been a faithful member of the Nation of Islam for over twenty-five years; a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; a member of various nursing leadership organizations; and, she is an active participant in all of these organizations.

Chrystal's leadership, passion, dedication, endurance, dependability, and service has made her synonymous with being one of the best, if not the best Nurse Practitioner in Mississippi. She is often praised by her patients for going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that they receive the most competent health care services. Chrystal is recognized for her service to God, her family, her country, her community, and the people that seek her help.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chrystal Williams-Davis, Family Nurse Practitioner, for her dedication to serving this great state and country.

#### HONORING TOBI PARKS AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

#### HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Tobi Parks, the founder of xBk and the Board Vice President for the National Independent Venue Association Foundation, as Iowan of the Week.

Surrounded by music her entire life, Tobi describes herself as a musician and creator at heart. Growing up with an understanding of what it takes to be successful in the music industry, Tobi was conscious that her unwavering passion for music could lead to a viable and fulfilling career path. Studying media communications and audio production at Webster University, Tobi was able to foster her interests academically. While at first, Tobi was

scared to put herself out there, those concerns never stopped her from pursuing her dreams in the music industry whether it was completing gigs or hosting shows on the radio. After university, Tobi moved to New York, where she worked for Sony focusing on copy-right and licensing work. However, in 2015, Tobi moved to Des Moines and in the same year, she established an artist-development nonprofit label called Station One Records. Station One Records was created with the objective of granting artists the development that she wishes she could have had. In the end, the nonprofit promotes that finding and cultivating talent is the priority rather than the financial benefits and end results.

As a woman of color and a member of the LGBTQ+ community, moving to Des Moines with her family was a considerable change from her life in New York City. The decision was made based on the fact that they had family in the area, and she could still be legally married in Iowa. Additionally, at the time, a member of the Des Moines Social Club advised her that one can do whatever they wish to do and find support anywhere in Des Moines. With that advice in mind, Tobi sought to build upon the live music ecosystem in Des Moines since she already had experience with running venues, booking artists, and touring. These experiences led to her founding xBk, which is a live entertainment venue in Des Moines in the Drake neighborhood. With the creation of xBk, there was an opportunity to increase the outreach of Station One, create a space to foster an artist community, and diversify the genres of music seen in Des Moines through the venue. Furthermore, with the COVID-19 pandemic, her work as the Board Vice President for the National Independent Venue Association Foundation has pushed for xBk and other businesses to obtain necessary aid through emergency relief programs and additional grants.

Tobi's involvement in the music industry and Des Moines community encourages both the development of those she helps and the diversity of the industry in general. Her determination and inclusive mindset have propelled her to success and make her truly worthy of being nominated for this award. Tobi serves as an inspiration and role model to all, and it is my honor to name her Iowan of the Week.

#### RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE OF LEN SIMICH

#### HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, today I recognize Len Simich for his extraordinary service to the state of Minnesota as the longtime leader of SouthWest Transit.

Since 1997, Len has served as the CEO of SouthWest Transit, a public transit agency serving the cities of Chaska, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, and Carver. Under his leadership, SouthWest Transit has embodied its mission to be more than a transit agency by putting people first. This approach established SouthWest Transit as a nation-leading suburban transit agency and key contributor to the region's continued growth and economic development.

Len has helped guide SouthWest Transit from nearly the beginning, helming the agency for over two-thirds of its existence. In that time, he has spurred a fourfold increase in ridership, the construction of numerous new transit stations, and the implementation of innovative transit services such as SouthWest Prime. He also helped lead the agency through the many challenges that have faced transportation agencies in the past two-and-a-half decades, including the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Len's dedication and ingenuity has been recognized time and time again at the state and national levels. Len was previously honored as the Minnesota Transit Professional of the Year, and the list of accolades for SouthWest Transit are too numerous to fully list but include the American Public Transportation Association's Outstanding Public Transportation System of the Year and the Federal Highway Administration's National Environmental Excellence Award.

Even as he embarks on his retirement, both SouthWest Transit and the communities the agency serves will continue to benefit from his visionary leadership. His service has made it easier for families and friends to share moments together, for residents to achieve economic success through access to job openings across the region, for seniors to live more independently and maintain access to the care and services they need, and for all to enjoy unique seasonal events like the Minnesota State Fair. Our region owes a debt of gratitude to Len for allowing us all to enjoy the fruits of his labor, and on behalf of a grateful community, we wish him a happy, healthy, and meaningful retirement.

#### HONORING CHRISTO (CHRIS) LUNDERMAN

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated gentleman, Mr. Christo (Chris) Lunderman. Mr. Lunderman has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Chris Lunderman has been awarded top honors with the 2022 Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA), which recognizes African-American scientists and engineers around the country. The winners chosen are leaders shaping the future of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), as well as promoting diversity and inclusion in the STEM pipeline. He was recognized at this year's BEYA STEM Global Competitiveness Conference, which was held in Washington, D.C., Feb. 17 through 19.

Lunderman, a research physicist in the Information Technology Lab (ITL), received the Outstanding Achievement and Science Spectrum Trailblazer Award, which focuses on individuals who have created new paths for others in science, research, technology, and development. In his day-to-day role, Lunderman leads a diverse, multi-disciplinary team of engineers, scientists and technicians in the design and installation of sensor systems and communications to better quantify the condition of aging infrastructure.